

DRAFT

**Parks and Recreation Department Board Minutes
March 14, 2000
Regular Meeting**

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Mary Ruth Holder, Clint Small, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Carol Kim and Mike Librik

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Joanna Mesecke, Oralia Ybarbo, Merv Griffin, Tinora Williams, Don Goerner, Randy Scott, David Turnquest, Anita Villalobos and Donna McKennis

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the February 22, 2000 meeting.

Board Member Carter moved that the minutes be accepted. Mary Ruth Holder seconded. The motion passed in favor. (7-0-0).

C. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION There was none.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Dick Pierce with the Austin Food Security and Gardening Coalition spoke regarding community gardens and their existence at the Colorado River Park. The program's focus would be on the availability of fresh, nutritious food, particularly for low-income families, children and for the elderly. The program is called Austin Community Gardens and there are several locations around Austin. Austin Community Gardens is involved with children's gardens, school gardens, gardening education and wildscapes. Mr. Pierce thanked the Board and everyone involved for their proposed gardening space at the Colorado River Park and that they are excited and anxious to help.
2. Joanna Mesecke with the Get Real Roving Leader Program spoke regarding the Roving Leader program which is a component of the Social Fabric Initiative. The program was started in 1998 with eight roving leaders and nine assistants. This year City Council allocated enough funds convert eight temporary staff positions to permanent. Ms. Mesecke also stated that the program is a recreational program on wheels. Tinora Williams, Barbara Jordan Outreach Coordinator and former Roving Leader, was introduced. Ms. Williams stated that they had received \$300,000 to do an outreach program at Barbara Jordan Elementary. Currently, a needs assessment of the community is being done. She is working with students as mentors and taking kids to participate in the Totally Cool, Totally Art program. Merv Griffin, Roving Leader stated that they spend time outside in the community and monitor the needs of the kids, take them to events and try to expose them to different things. Mr. Griffin also stated that a girls softball clinic was held today (March 14, 2000) and they are hoping to start a league. Oralia Ybarbo, Roving Leader, is working with the St. John's program where they started out utilizing a house, got the parents involved and they are currently working on a health fair that is free to the public and they have been obtaining a lot of donations from the community.
3. Don Goerner, Financial Analyst II and Mountain Bike Program Coordinator with the Parks and Recreation Department; presented a video of the Parks and Recreation Department mountain bike racing team competing in a race. Mr. Goerner explained that mountain bikes are designed to go over rough trails and rocks and that this idea was started through the Alamo Recreation Center. To date, the kids have participated in about eight or nine races, and have been trained in techniques, trail etiquette, bike mechanics and maintenance of the land or trail. These kids are the ages of ten through fifteen. They will be participating in some upcoming races.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Chair, Rosemary Castleberry appointed Board Members Elaine Carter, Mary Ruth Holder and Carol Kim to serve on the Arts and Recreation Committee.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jesus M. Olivares, Director, stated that the Lake Walter E. Long project proposal will have a feasibility study completed; John Stephens, Assistant Director with the Financial Services Department will be conducting the study. Also, that Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of submitting the Five Year Forecast and a committee has been formed to identify certain areas of Operations and Maintenance needs that can be lobbied for. Board Members will be contacted, letting them know the date and time of the committee's meeting.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Land and Facilities Committee – Regular meeting was held. Some items regarding re-naming of parks were delayed. There was a major discussion regarding an EMS station being located near Deep Eddy pool, and the Committee has asked for a period of public comment to be set for the next board meeting on March 28th and have the item on the agenda for action. There was also discussion regarding a proposed curfew at the Walsh Boat Landing, and input is needed from Warren Struss, Park Police Administrator.
- Navigation Committee – PARD staff member Randy Scott, staff from building inspections and an environmental inspector are starting a program where they will routinely tour and inspect boat docks and red tag those that not in compliance with the code. They have gained access by going out with the Park Police Lake Patrol. There was a request for soccer fields at the Colorado River Park; there will be more discussion on this issue.
- Programs Committee – Will meet March 28, 2000 at 12 Noon.
- Downtown Commission – There was a presentation regarding the Plaza Lofts.
- Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board – Board Member Elaine Carter has been attending meetings would like comments from other Board Members to relay to the consultant.
- Municipal Airport Advisory Group –

Board Member Librik has been attending the Zilker Park/Barton Springs task force meetings, they will meet March 22nd at the Public Works Building.

Chair Castleberry stated that the Austin Metro Trails Council is planning a charette of the town lake hike and bike trail.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were various issues discussed by Board Members.

I. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.